



THE
ANNUAL REPORT

For the Year 1939,

UPON THE

Health and Sanitary Condition

OF THE

Sunderland Rural District.

J. CLEMINSON, M.B., B.S., B.HY., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

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SUNDERLAND RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Chairman :

COUNCILLOR MRS. E. W. THOMPSON, J.P.

Vice-Chairman :

COUNCILLOR M. J. FORREST.

COUN. T. EMMERSON.

COUN. J. E. LINDLEY.

COUN. W. EMMERSON.

COUN. W. T. LUMLEY.

COUN. R. FAWCETT.

COUN. MRS. M. ORR.

COUN. W. J. GOUNDRY.

COUN. F. READMAN.

COUN. R. HEWITT.

COUN. R. SMITH.

COUN. E. W. LAWSON.

COUN. A. WEIGHTMAN.

COUN. A. LILLEY.

COUN. N. WILSON.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

1 THE ESPLANADE,

SUNDERLAND.

OFFICIALS.

Medical Officer of Health:

J. CLEMINSON, M.B., B.S., B.HY., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector, etc.:

ERNEST HITCHEN, CERT. SAN. INST., R.P.C.

Assistant Inspector:

J. T. CUTHBERTSON.

Clerk to Health Department:

Miss C. V. CORY.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES HOSPITAL.

Medical Superintendent:

DR. J. CLEMINSON, M.B., B.S., B.HY., D.P.H.

Matron:

Miss I. C. THOMPSON.

SUNDERLAND RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE RURAL
DISTRICT COUNCIL OF SUNDERLAND.

MADAM CHAIRMAN, MRS. ORR AND GENTLEMEN,

In presenting my Annual Report for the year 1939, due regard has been paid to the Ministry of Health's recommendation to keep the Report as short as possible by the avoidance of repetition of data, etc.

The past year has seen a welcome decline in the incidence of infectious disease in your district, but as to what effect the outbreak of war, with its consequent social and economic upset of the population as a whole, will have upon this incidence, yet remains to be seen. The cessation of all housing schemes has been a serious matter for the district.

I gratefully acknowledge the willing co-operation of your officials, and the loyal support of your Council, during the past year.

I remain, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. CLEMINSON, M.D., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health.

November, 1940.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres)	....	....	....	....	....	8,286 acres.
Registrar General's estimate of resident population, mid-1939	....	....	....	....	....	24,130
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1938) according to rate book	....	....	....	....	....	6,318
Rateable Value	....	....	....	....	....	£97,084
Sum represented by penny rate	....	....	....	....	....	£404

THE FOLLOWING TABLE GIVES THE ACREAGE,
AND THE ESTIMAED POPULATION 1939.

PARISH.	Acreage	Estimated Population
Ford	590	2890
East and Middle Herrington	1064	1250
West Herrington	398	138
Hylton	2211	2873
Offerton	956	168
Ryhope	1131	9357
Silksworth	1297	1764
Tunstall	639	5690
Whole District ...	8286	24130

About three-fifths of the male population in the District are Coal Miners, the remainder of the population being chiefly employed in the Shipyards, Iron Foundaries, Paper Making, Mills, Quarrying and on the land.

There has been little change in the social conditions of the area. The Collieries which employ the greatest proportion of labour, have worked fairly well. The influx of men from the district into the services has, to some extent, alleviated the unemployment problem, but as to the ultimate effect of this change upon the social fabric as a whole, any opinion can only be guesswork.

SUNDERLAND RURAL DISTRICT.
VITAL STATISTICS OF THE WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1939.
AND THE FOUR PREVIOUS YEARS.

Year	Population. Estimated to Middle of each Year.	Births.		Deaths Registered as Belonging to the District.		Transferable Deaths		Nett Deaths belonging to the District		
		Un- corrected Number	Nett		Number	Rate	of Non- residents registered in the District	of Resi- dents not registered in the District	Under 1 Year of Age	
			Number	Rate					Number	Rate
1935	22,377	350	350	15·6	174	7·7	40	56	23	65
1936	22,377	334	334	14·9	176	7·9	41	65	19	56
1937	25,932	393	393	15·1	190	7·3	57	103	35	89
1938	24,400	361	361	14·7	179	7·3	34	99	26	72
1939	24,130	405	405	16·7	208	8·6	45	87	27	66
									230	10·2
									241	10·8
									293	11·3
									278	11·3
									295	12·2

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water) 8,286.

I.—Institutions within the District receiving infectious cases from the District—Sunderland Rural District Isolation Hospital, Ford.

II.—Institutions outside the District receiving sick and infirm persons from the District—Highfield Institution, Sunderland; Monkwearmouth and Southwick Hospital; Durham County Asylum, Sedgfield; Sunderland Children's Hospital; Sunderland Royal Infirmary; "High Barnes Home," Sunderland; Sunderland Eye Infirmary; Mowbray Maternity Home.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Births and Birth Rate.

The nett number of Births in the District was 405.

The sex and legitimacy classification is shewn thus:—

		Male.		Female.		Total
LIVE BIRTHS	{ Legitimate	196	....	200	....	396
	{ Illegitimate	5	....	4	....	9

The Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population is 16.7. This compares with a Birth Rate of 15.0 per 1,000 of the population for England and Wales.

The following table shews (a) the total number of Births (b) the number of Males born (c) the number of Females born (d) the Birth Rate per thousand of the population and (e) the total increase of the population, i.e., the excess of births over deaths for the year 1939 and for the immediately preceeding 10 years :—

Year.	Total Births.	Males.	Females.	Birth Rate per 1000.	Total Increase.
1929	450	220	230	19.2	142
1930	469	224	245	20.1	208
1931	426	207	219	19.3	173
1932	460	246	214	20.7	226
1933	402	201	201	17.9	139
1934	358	210	148	15.9	109
1935	350	167	183	15.6	120
1936	334	163	171	14.9	93
(Revision of district boundaries during 1937)					
1937	393	203	190	15.1	100
1938	361	187	174	14.7	83
1939	405	201	204	16.7	110

STILL BIRTHS.

During 1939, there were 17 still births in the District.

		Males.	Females.
Still Births	{ Legitimate	5	.... 10
	{ Illegitimate	2 —

This gives a rate of 40.3 per 1,000 total Live and Still Births.

The Still Birth Rate of the population is 0.70 per thousand. The corresponding figure for England and Wales is 0.59.

DEATHS AND DEATH RATE.

During 1939 there were 208 deaths registered as having occurred within the District, namely, 117 males and 91 females.

The number of deaths of residents in the District, which occurred outside the District, was 48 males and 39 females. The total number of deaths therefore, when corrected for the inward and outward transfers, is 165 males and 130 females. The death-rate (corrected for outward and inward transfers) and including deaths from all causes and at all ages, was 12.2 per thousand of the estimated population.

The Registrar General supplies a factor for obtaining a crude death-rate for the District. This enables the crude death-rate in the Sunderland Rural District to be compared with the crude death-rate of the country, as a whole.

Such crude death-rates are shewn thus :—

Sunderland Rural District—14.4 per thousand
estimated population.

England and Wales—12.1 per thousand of the
population.

The following table shews the variation in the Birth and Death Rates and the increase in population during the preceeding 10 years, as compared with 1938 :—

Year.	Birth Rate.	Death Rate.	Material Increase in Population per 1000 living.
1929	19.2	13.2	6.0
1930	20.1	11.1	9.0
1931	19.3	11.5	7.8
1932	20.7	10.5	10.2
1933	17.9	11.7	6.2
1934	15.9	11.1	4.8
1935	15.6	10.2	5.4
1936	14.9	10.8	4.1
(Revision of district boundaries during 1937).			
1937	15.1	11.3	3.8
1938	14.7	11.3	3.4
1939	16.7	12.2	4.5

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

Two deaths were registered as having occurred from puerperal causes. This gives a death rate of 4.7 per thousand total births.

The total maternal mortality figures for England and Wales are 2.93.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

Twenty-seven children died during 1939 before attaining the age of one year.

		Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	....	.... 18	9	27
Illegitimate	....	.... Nil.	Nil.	Nil.

The Death Rate of Infants under one year, is shewn according to the total number of live births, and legitimacy: —

Death Rate for all infants per thousand live births....	65.8
Death Rate for all infants per thousand legitimate	
live births	67.1
Death Rate for illegitimate infants per thousand	
illegitimate live births	*

* No deaths of illegitimate children under the age of one year occurred.

The following table shews the infantile mortality rate for all infants per 1,000 live births, in 1939 as compared with the preceeding 10 years: —

Year.	Rate.
1929	122
1930	78
1931	84
1932	76
1933	99
1934	97
1935	65
1936	56
1937	89
1938	72
1939	66

The Infantile Mortality-rate is slowly declining, the figure 66 comparing favourably with an average figure of 83.8 for the preceeding 10 years. The figure is still high however, when compared with that for England and Wales, which is 50.

The infantile mortality-rate and the sanitary conditions of an area bear a close relationship to each other. As the sanitary conditions improve, the infantile mortality-rate falls.

Of the twenty-seven infants who died, eighteen died from congenital malformations, prematurity and debility (atrophy and marasmus).

This gives a percentage of 66.6 for the deaths of all the infants who died.

The following table shews, in detail, the causes of infantile mortality in the district :—

CAUSE OF DEATH.	Under 1 Week	1-2 Weeks	2-3 Weeks	3-4 Weeks	Total under 4 Weeks	1-3 Months	3-6 Months	6-9 Months	9-12 Months	Total Deaths under 1 year.
All Causes—										
Certified	8	2	2	1	13	4	4	1		22
Uncertified	4	1			5					5
Common Infectious Diseases—										
Smallpox										
Chickenpox										
Measles										
Scarlet Fever										
Diphtheria and Croup										
Whooping Cough										
Diarrhœal Diseases—										
Diarrhœa										
Enteritis				1	1					1
Tuberculosis Diseases—										
Tuberculous Meningitis								1		1
Abdominal Tuberculosis										
Other Tuberculous Diseases										
Wasting Diseases—										
Congenital Malformations.	2				2	1				3
Premature Birth	6				6					6
Atrophy, Debility,	2	1			3		1			4
Marasmus										
Other Causes—										
Atelectasis	2				2					2
Injury at Birth										
Erysipelas										
Syphilis										
Rickets										
Meningitis (<i>not Tuberculous</i>)										
Convulsions		2	1		3	1				4
Gastritis										
Laryngitis										
Bronchitis						2	1			3
Pneumonia (all forms)			1		1		1			2
Influenza							1			1
Suffocation, overlaying										
Other causes										
TOTALS...	12	3	2	1	18	4	4	1		27

DEATHS FROM ZYMOTIC DISEASES.

During the year 1939, there were four deaths from the chief zymotic diseases.

The following table shews the number of deaths from the various zymotic diseases for the past 5 years : —

Zymotic Disease	1934	1935	1936	1937 1938 Under revised boundaries		1939
Population	22,377	22,377	22,377	25,932	24,400	24,080
Measles (all ages)....	1	5	1	2	0	0
Whooping Cough (all ages)....	3	1	0	2	1	0
Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	2	1	2	3	1	2
Scarlet Fever	5	2	5	1	0	0
Diphtheria	2	9	4	1	4	2
Typhoid and Para Typhoid	0	0	0	0	0	0

DEATHS FROM CANCER.

There were Forty-eight deaths notified as being due to cancer in 1939. The comparative figures for the preceeding 10 years are: —

Year.	Deaths.
1929	11
1930	26
1931	17
1932	25
1933	24
1934	22
1935	13
1936	28
1937	34
1938	40
1939	48

Although it appears from the above table that there has been an increase in the number of deaths from cancer during the past years, this increase is probably only relative, and not actual, and can best be accounted for by more accurate diagnosis, due to the increasing use which is made of the Hospitals both by suspected and actual sufferers from the disease.

The causes of all Deaths in the District during 1939 is shewn in the following table:—

Cause of Death					Male	Female	Total
1.	Typhoid and Para Typhoid	....	....	....	0	0	0
2.	Measles	....	....	....	0	0	0
3.	Scarlet Fever	....	....	....	0	0	0
4.	Whooping Cough	....	....	....	0	0	0
5.	Diphtheria	....	....	....	1	1	2
6.	Influenza	....	....	....	1	0	1
7.	Encephalitis Lethargica	....	....	....	1	1	2
8.	Cerebro Spinal Fever	....	....	....	0	0	0
9.	Tuberculosis of Respiratory system	....	....	....	8	5	13
10.	Other Tuberculous Diseases	....	....	....	4	1	5
11.	Syphilis	....	....	....	1	1	2
12.	G.P.I. Tabes, etc.	....	....	....	1	0	1
13.	Cancer	....	....	....	22	26	48
14.	Diabetes	....	....	....	0	5	5
15.	Cerebral Hæmorrhage, etc	....	....	....	8	6	14
16.	Heart Disease	....	....	....	38	31	69
17.	Aneurysm	....	....	....	0	0	0
18.	Other Circulatory Diseases	....	....	....	12	10	22
19.	Bronchitis	....	....	....	8	7	15
20.	Pneumonia (all forms)	....	....	....	5	1	6
21.	Other Respiratory Diseases	....	....	....	1	2	3
22.	Peptic Ulcer	....	....	....	2	0	2
23.	Diarrhœa (under 2 years)	....	....	....	1	1	2
24.	Appendicitis	....	....	....	1	1	2
25.	Cirrhosis of Liver	....	....	....	0	0	0
26.	Other Liver Diseases	....	....	....		1	1
27.	Other Digestive Diseases	....	....	....		3	7
28.	Acute and Chronic Nephritis	....	....	....		3	6
29.	Puerperal Sepsis	....	....	....		0	0
30.	Other Puerperal Diseases	....	....	....	0	2	2
31.	Congenital Debility and Premature Birth, etc	....	....	....	14	4	18
32.	Senility	....	....	....	9	9	18
33.	Suicide	....	....	....	1	0	1
34.	Other Violence	....	....	....	11	2	13
35.	Other Defined Diseases	....	....	....	8	6	14
36.	Ill Defined Diseases	....	....	....	0	0	0
37.	Diarrhœa (2 years and over)	....	....	....	0	1	1
TOTAL					165	130	295

BIRTH-RATES, DEATH-RATES, ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY,
MATERNAL DEATH-RATES, AND CASE-RATES, FOR CERTAIN
INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN THE YEAR 1939.

England and Wales, London, 126 Great Towns and 148 Smaller Towns.
(Provisional Figures based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns).

	England and Wales	126 County Boroughs and Great Towns including London	148 Smaller Towns (Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census	London Adminis- trative County
Rates per 1,000 Population.				
Births :—				
Live	15.0	14.8	15.6	12.3
Still	0.59	0.59	0.57	0.44
Deaths :—				
All Causes	12.1	12.0	11.2	11.9
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Smallpox	—	—	—	—
Measles	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00
Scarlet Fever	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00
Whooping Cough	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.03
Diphtheria	0.05	0.05	0.04	0.02
Influenza	0.21	0.19	0.20	0.18
Notifications :—				
Smallpox	0.00	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	1.89	1.96	1.78	1.53
Diphtheria	1.14	1.21	1.16	0.98
Enteric Fever	0.04	0.03	0.04	0.03
Erysipelas	0.34	0.40	0.31	0.37
Pneumonia	1.02	1.21	0.89	0.99
Rates per 1,000 Live Births.				
Deaths under 1 year of age	50	53	40	48
Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years of age	4.6	6.3	3.0	8.2
Maternal Mortality :—				
Puerperal Sepsis	0.77	Not available		
Others	2.16			
Total	2.93			
Rates per 1,000 Total Births (i.e., Live and Still).				
Maternal Mortality :—				
Puerperal Sepsis	0.74	Not available		
Others	2.08			
Total	2.82			
Notifications :—				
Puerperal Fever	14.35	17.26	12.99	3.31
Puerperal Pyrexia				14.22

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Laboratory Facilities.

Sputum, Swabs, etc., are sent by private practitioner (by arrangements with the County Council) to the King's College, Newcastle-on-Tyne, for examination.

Bacteriological Examinations made during the year:—

	Total.	Positive.	Negative.	Inconclusive.
Phthisis	93	12	81	—
Diphtheria	120	41	76	—

Ambulance Facilities.

The Sunderland Rural District Council is the owner of two ambulances. One ambulance is used for the transportation of cases of infectious disease, and the other ambulance is at the service of the people of the district for non-infectious cases. A nominal charge is made for the use of this ambulance. This latter ambulance is now 12 years old and provision will have to be made in the near future for replacement.

The Collieries in this District, namely Ryhope and Silksworth, have their own Ambulances, which are chiefly used for the employees of the respective Collieries.

For very urgent cases, such as accidents, the Sunderland County Borough Police Ambulance is available.

The Ambulance Services in this District are adequate.

Nursing in the Home.

No change has taken place in the facilities for home nursing during the past year.

Maternity and Child Welfare Centres are established at the following places:—Ryhope and Silksworth, Castletown and South Hylton.

These centres are under the control of the Durham County Council.

Treatment Centres and Clinics are situated at all Public and Voluntary Hospitals in the surrounding district.

Hospital Accommodation.

There has been no change in the general provision of Hospital services for the District.

The Sunderland Rural District Council Hospital is situated in Hylton Road and provides accommodation, at present, for 44 cases of infectious disease, and for 39 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis.

All cases of infectious disease are admitted when, and if, accommodation is available for them.

During the past year a scheme for the complete modernisation of the existing tuberculosis block was submitted to the Ministry of Health for approval. The outbreak of war has been responsible for the holding up of this scheme, although this was almost inevitable, the suspension of this scheme is greatly to be regretted, since a great improvement would have been made in promoting the welfare and comfort of the patients, and in rendering the work of the nursing staff simpler. It is to be hoped that the termination of hostilities will permit of the immediate completion of the scheme, together with those other improvements which I also advocated in my report of 1938.

The outbreak of war resulted in a large increase in the number of admissions of men from Usworth Aerodrome and other military camps in the District. The accommodation for these men has been adequate and the admissions from these sources has caused no interference with admissions from the ordinary civilian population.

During the past year 113 cases of infectious disease have been admitted to hospital. as follows:—

DISEASE.	Patients in Hospital on 31st Dec., 1938.	Patients Admitted during 1939.	Patients in the Hospital on 31st Dec., 1939.
Scarlet Fever	9	38	7
Diphtheria	11	66	13
Measles	—	3	1
German Measles	—	3	—
Scabies	—	1	—
Observation	1	1	—

To the Tuberculosis Pavilion Sixty-six cases were admitted, the ages at which patients were admitted is shewn thus : —

15 years and under 25 years	27
25 years and under 45 years	38
45 years and under 65 years	1

During the past year two deaths occurred in the Hospital from Diphtheria and nine from Tuberculosis.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply.

No changes in the water supply have been effected in the District, and the supply has been satisfactory as regards purity and adequacy.

The Scheme for the provision of a piped supply to Coxgreen, which at present is supplied from the Alice Well, has been held up. Regular inspections and examinations are made of this water supply.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

No substantial changes have occurred in the drainage and sewerage of the District.

The position as regards the common sewer, which drains Tunstall and Silksworth and which runs under Ryhope pit-heap, is still unsatisfactory, and I have no reason to alter the remarks which I made about this matter, in my report for 1938.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Total number of water closets in the District....	5820
Total number of ash-closets in the District.....	359
Total number of privies in the District	54

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

The District is scavenged twice a week by the Council's own vehicles and the system used is satisfactory.

The refuse is disposed of at centrally placed tips, where a system of control, by covering the tips with incombustible material such as soil, is in operation. This control is satisfactory and prevents nuisances from smells, fires, flies, etc.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

The following is a summary of the Sanitary Inspector's Report as regards the Inspection of the Area.

PARTICULARS				Number of Informal written Notices by Inspector.	Number of Statutory Notices by Authority	Number of Nuisances abated after Notice.
Dwelling-houses and Schools	{	Foul Conditions ...	...	5	1	6
		Structural Defects ...	...	127		124
		Overcrowding ...	...	4		4
Lodging Houses ....		....	....	....
Dairies and Milkshops ....		....	....	13	2	14
Cowsheds ....		....	....	2		2
Bakehouses ....		....	....	2		2
Slaughterhouses ....		....	....	1		1
Ash-pits and Privies ....		....	....	144		142
Deposits of Refuse and Manure ....		....	....	8		8
Waterclosets ....		....	....	33	3	36
Defective Yard Paving ....		....	....	7		7
House Drainage	{	Defective Traps ...	...	4		4
		No Dis-connection ...	...	1		1
		Blocked Drains ...	...	8		8
Water Supply ....		....	....	11		11
Pigsties ....		....	....	2		2
Animals Improperly Kept ....		....	...	1		1
Offensive Trades ....		....	....
Smoke Nuisances ....		....	....	1		1
Defective Roof Spouting ....		....	....	24		24
Dampness of House Walls ....		....	....	21		21
Defective Roofs ....		....	....	20		20
Bedrooms not properly Ventilated ...		...	...	12		12
Defective Rain-water Pipes ....		....	....	7		7
Other Nuisances ....		....	....	19		19
Totals				477	6	477

Six notices not complied with on December 31st, 1939.

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Premises					Number of	
					Inspections.	Written Notices.
Factories	....	....	....	....	12	1
Workshops	....	....	....	....	40	1
Workplaces	....	....	....	....	10	...
Total					62	2

Defects found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Particulars.				Number of Defects.	
				Found.	Remedied.
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts : —</i>					
Want of cleanliness	....	....	....	1	1
Want of ventilation	....	....	....	Nil.	Nil.
Overcrowding	....	....	....	„	„
Want of drainage of floors	....	....	....	„	„
Other nuisances	....	....	....	1	1
Sanitary Accommodation	{	Insufficient	....	Nil.	Nil.
		Unsuitable or defective	....	„	„
Total				2	2

Registered Workshops.

Retail Bakehouses	....	....	....	8
Blacksmiths	....	....	....	2
Tailor	....	....	....	1
Tripe Preparer	....	....	....	1
Boot Repairers	....	....	....	10
Dressmakers	....	....	....	4
Butcher	....	....	....	1
Builders and Joiners	....	....	....	8
Motor Garage and Repair Shop	....			3
				—
Total				38

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

Satisfactory progress has been made during the past year with the question of smoke abatement from the Silksworth Colliery refuse heaps. The emission of smoke and abnoxious fumes had been almost totally suppressed by the end of the year.

The position as regards Ryhope Colliery Spoil Heap, is however, not quite so satisfactory. Negotiations with the management of the colliery have been made and some good has certainly resulted from these efforts. Owing to the peculiar shape of the spoil heaps, however, the solution is not so simple as at Silksworth. The outbreak of war, and the institution of a rigorous blackout, have certainly helped here, as in order to suppress flames, the Colliery Company has smothered their heaps with many tons of incombustible material. To some degree, this process has resulted in the diminution of nuisances from the heaps.

HOUSING.

The suspension of all housing schemes consequent upon the outbreak of war, is a serious matter for this District. By the end of the year, a total of approximately 225 houses, which have been condemned, are still awaiting demolition, and owing to the great housing shortage in this district, the majority of these are still occupied by families. Since these houses are in a very insanitary and dilapidated condition, and the lot of the people fated to live in them until the end of the war, and possibly for a good while after that, is an unenviable one, I am of the opinion that the health of these people is bound to be adversely affected. These people were to be re-housed in 251 new houses, upon none of which has any work been started.

Besides the property mentioned above, there is a good deal of property in the district which would have been included in new clearance orders during the next year or so, and whilst endeavours are being made to keep this property

in as good a condition as possible for the sake of the inhabitants, the standard of housing of these people can only be described as very poor.

Overcrowding still presents a problem in this area, and this is another problem which is adversely affected by the war.

Up to the end of the year, the overcrowding problem was not greatly accentuated by an influx of refugees from other parts of the country, but as to how this latter factor will influence matters in the future still remains to be seen. Any considerable influx of refugees is bound to result in a good deal of overcrowding which is non-existent at present.

NUMBER OF HOUSES ERECTED DURING THE YEAR: —

(1) By Local Authority	176
(2) By other Local Authorities	Nil.
(3) By other bodies and persons....	36
<hr/>	
Total	212

1 INSPECTION OF DWELLING-HOUSES DURING THE YEAR : —

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	520
(b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose	986
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	8
(b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose	22
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	8
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation)	2

2 REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE
OF FORMAL NOTICES:—

Number of Defective dwelling-houses rendered
fit in consequence of informal action by the
Local Authority or their Officers 477

3 ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR:—

A.—PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTIONS 9, 10 AND 16 OF
THE HOUSING ACT, 1936.

1. Number of dwelling-houses in respect of
which notices were served requiring
repairs Nil.

2. Number of dwelling-houses which were
rendered fit after service of formal
notices:—
(a) By Owners Nil.
(b) By Local Authority in default of
owners Nil.

B.—PROCEEDINGS UNDER PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect
of which notices were served requiring
defects to be remedied Nil.

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which
defects were remedied after service of
formal notices:—
(a) By Owners Nil.
(b) By Local Authority in default of
Owners Nil.

C.—PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTION 11 AND 13 OF THE
HOUSING ACT, 1936.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect
of which Demolition Orders were made Nil.

D.—PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTION 12 OF THE HOUSING
ACT, 1936.

(1) Number of separate tenements or under-
ground rooms in respect of which
Closing Orders were made Nil.

- (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit Nil.

HOUSING ACT, 1936.

During the year 1939 the following Clearance Area was dealt with and the Order confirming the action by the Council has been made by the Ministry of Health:—

FORD (No. 38) CLEARANCE AREA.

Comprising Nos. 1, 2, 2Bk., 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 Quarryhole, South Hylton.

HOUSING—RURAL WORKERS ACT.

During the year no applications were made for Grants under the Rural Workers Act.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply.

Regular inspections have been made of Cowsheds, Dairies and Milkshops in the District.

Fifteen notices were served upon Farmers to remedy defects found to exist during the course of our inspections. On the whole, the cowsheds, dairies and milkshops were found to be satisfactory.

The number of Accredited Producers in the District is 7, and in addition there are 19 Registered Wholesale Milk Producers and 14 Registered Retail Milk Producers, the number of dairy cows being 682. There are also 12 Registered Purveyors of Milk.

There are 3 Producers of Tuberculin Tested Milk.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

There are seven licensed slaughter-houses in the District, which are regularly inspected each week throughout the year.

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle, excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	4,888	312	36	620	480
Number Inspected	4,888	312	36	620	480
All disease except Tuberculosis.					
Whole Carcases condemned		1			
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned....	52	13	1	7	5
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuber- culosis	1	0.4	0.2	1.1	1
Tuberculosis only.					
Whole Carcases condemned	5	3			
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned....	13	1			
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	0.3	1.2			

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

During the year 1939, 240 cases of infectious disease, including all forms of Tuberculosis, were notified. This compares with a figure of 332 for the year 1938.

Scarlet Fever.

This disease shewed a welcome decline in incidence, 50 cases being notified as compared with 99 for the preceeding

year. The figure per notification for the population as a whole is 2.07 per 1,000 as compared with a corresponding figure of 1.89 per 1,000 for England and Wales. It will thus be seen that the incidence of scarlatina in this district during the past year may be described as being average. No deaths occurred from the disease, which has been of a fairly mild type and very few cases of serious illness have been due to it.

Many cases, admitted to hospital as scarlet fever, have been found to have no rash, or a very transient type of rash, and the only subjective symptoms have been a sore throat, with some degree of temperature. In my opinion, the fairest diagnosis of such cases would be simply to describe them as tonsillitis. The borderline between the clinical manifestation of the various types of streptococcal throat infections, however, is often so finely drawn, that it is often impossible to give a definite diagnosis in any individual case.

Diphtheria.

66 cases of Diphtheria were notified as having occurred within the district, as compared with 70 cases during the preceeding year. This gives a figure of 2.7 notifications per thousand of the population, as compared with a corresponding figure of 1.14 per thousand for England and Wales.

It would appear that the incidence of diphtheria is much higher in this district than in the rest of the country, but many of the cases notified and admitted to hospital as diphtheria, have, on investigation, proved to be cases of tonsillitis, the causal organism of which was found to be a streptococcus (in some instances, these cases of tonsillitis were severe, but the majority were fairly mild). The actual number of cases of the disease which occurred is therefore considerably below the number of notifications. The cases of diphtheria which were admitted to the hospital, in the main, were of a severe type, and two deaths occurred from the disease. There is at present no general scheme for immunisation against diphtheria in force within the district, but individual cases are immunised free of charge, upon application.

The establishment of various military camps within the area has presented several Public Health problems. Regular inspections of all camps have been made and recommendations made to the appropriate authorities for improvement in sanitary matters. The Ministry of Health Circular W.2, has been taken as a guide when dealing with these matters. On the whole, most suggested improvements have been carried out, but the interval of time which has elapsed between the making of the recommendation and the carrying out of the work, is usually long. This is a matter which could be speeded up to advantage.

Another matter which gives cause for concern, is the establishment of camps and the billeting of troops, without any notification being made to the health authority. Such camps are often only brought to notice by observation and hearsay. The prompt notification of all such troop concentration is essential in order that proper sanitary facilities may be arranged straight away.

Another factor which will undoubtedly affect the health of the population as a result of the war, is the question of the use of Air Raid Shelters. If raids become frequent, the crowding of the population into these shelters, which are usually cold, damp and ill-ventilated, must inevitably result in a great increase in the risk of infection to the people. This will particularly shew itself in the increase in the number of cases of those diseases which are spread by droplet infection, i.e., from the breath. Such diseases are chiefly colds, influenza, measles, whooping cough, tonsillitis, scarlet fever and diphtheria. The risk of contracting these diseases will be greatest in the communal shelters, since the provision of domestic shelters for individual families will limit the risk chiefly to members of these families. Proper attention must be paid to the question of heating, drying and ventilation of shelters, if the risk of epidemics is to be minimised.

Measles, Whooping Cough, Erysipelas and Influenza.

There has apparently been no widespread epidemic of any of these diseases during the past year. Whenever beds are available at the Hospital, any of these cases would be admitted, if it was considered advisable to do so.

Pneumonia.

45 cases were notified as compared with 67 for the preceeding year.

Typhoid Fever and Smallpox.

No cases were notified as having occurred within the district.

Cerebro Spinal Meningitis.

Two cases were notified during the year.

Encephalitis Lethargica.

One case was notified during the year.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

DISEASE.	Total Cases Notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Smallpox	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	50	38	—
Diphtheria	66	66	2
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	6	—	2
Pneumonia	45	—	6
Erysipelas	22	2	—
Encephalitis Lethargica	1	—	2
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	3	—	—
Cerebro Spinal Fever	2	2	—
Totals....	195	108	12

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during 1939.

AGE PERIODS.			NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
			Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
			M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
1	...	...	—	—	2	1	—	—	1	—
5	...	...	—	—	5	3	—	—	—	—
10	...	...	—	1	—	2	—	—	—	—
15	...	...	—	—	1	1	—	1	1	—
20	...	...	3	2	—	—	1	1	—	—
25	...	...	3	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
35	...	...	5	1	1	1	3	1	—	—
45	...	...	3	—	—	1	1	—	1	—
55	...	...	—	—	—	—	3	1	—	1
65 and upwards			1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
TOTALS...			15	6	9	9	8	5	4	1

It has not been necessary to take any action under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, relating to persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis employed in the milk trade.

No action under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936, which relates to the compulsory removal to Hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis, has been taken.

The following table shews the ages and the distribution of the cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and Non-pulmonary Tuberculosis which have been notified in the District.

PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS.														NON-PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS.									
PARISH.	0-1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 & over	TOTAL.	3	3	6	2	4	18				
	0-1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 & over	TOTAL										
Ford	3	1	...	...	4	1	...	...	...	...	...
Herrington				
East and Middle				
Herrington West				
Hylton	3	1	...	...	4	2	...	...	...	...	...
Offerton	1	...	...	...	...	...
Ryhope	3	2	2	1	8	...	...	...	...	...	...
Silksworth	1	...	2	1	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...
Tunstall	1	1	1	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	1	...	9	7	3	1	21	...	...	...	...	...	...

The following table shews the ages and distribution of deaths which have occurred from Pulmonary Tuberculosis and Non-pulmonary Tuberculosis during 1939.

PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS.														NON-PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS.												
PARISH.	0-1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 & over	TOTAL.	0-1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 & over	TOTAL.
Ford	1	...	1	2	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Herrington
East and Middle
Herrington West	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Hylton
Offerton	1	2	3	...	6	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	2	...	5
Ryhope	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Silksworth	1	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Tunstall	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	1	2	4	5	1	13	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	2	...	5

The following table shows the Notifications of Infectious Disease during the year 1939, together with the ages at which Disease occurred and the incidence in each of the respective Parishes.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	NUMBER OF CASES NOTIFIED.												TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED IN EACH PARISH.									
	At all ages	AT AGES—YEARS.											Ford	Herrington East & Middle	Herrington West	Hylton	Offerton	Ryhope	Silksworth	Tunstall	Total cases removed to Hospital	
		Under 1 Year	1—2	2—3	3—4	4—5	5—10	10—15	15—20	20—25	35—45	45—65										65 and upwards
Smallpox	66	1	1	2	8	24	17	8	5	5	5	7		5	1	13	2	36	4	8	66	
Chicken-pox	22						1	5	4	4				3		7		8			2	
Cholera	50	2	1	3	3	2	18	10	8	2	1			1		5		29	2	8	38	
Malaria																						
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup)																						
Erysipelas																						
Scarlet Fever																						
Typhus Fever																						
Enteric Fever																						
Relapsing Fever																						
Continued Fever																						
Puerperal Pyrexia	6									4	2							3		3		
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	2	1	1											1					1	1	2	
Poliomyelitis																						
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	3																					
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	21						1			9	7	3	1	4		3		1	3	1		
Other Forms of Tuberculosis	18			1	2	8	2	2			2	1		3		3		8	3	3		
Encephalitis Lethargica	1		1															6	2	4		
Pneumonia	45	5	2			8	2	3	5		4	8	2	4		1		19	3	18		
Whooping Cough	2	1	1		1	1			1							3		1	1	1	1	
Measles	4																					
Totals	240	13	9	9	5	13	59	33	26	30	21	19	3	21	7	35	2	111	16	47	109	

The following table shows the Incidence of Diphtheria in each of the respective Parishes, together with the ages at which disease occurred.

DIPHTHERIA.

PARISH.	0-1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 and over.	Total	Cases removed to Hospital
Ford						2	1	1	1				5	5
Herrington														
East and Middle														
Herrington West				1	3	3	4	2					13	13
Hylton														
Offerton					4	14	11	4	3				36	36
Ryhope				1		2	1	1					4	4
Silksworth		1	1		1	3	1		1				8	8
Tunstall														
Whole District	1	1	1	2	8	24	17	8	5				66	66

The following table shows the Incidence of Scarlet Fever in each of the respective Parishes, together with the ages at which disease occurred.

SCARLET FEVER.

PARISH.	0-1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 and over.	TOTAL.	Cases Removed to Hospital.
Ford	1												1	1
Herrington														
East and Middle		1			2		1			1			5	2
Herrington West														
Hylton				1		2	1	1					5	5
Offerton														
Ryhope	1		2	1		11	8	5	1				29	21
Silksworth						1		1					2	1
Tunstall			1	1		4		1	1				8	8
Whole District	2	1	3	3	2	18	10	8	2	1			50	38

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